

Listing of Claims:

Cancel claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 11 – 14.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing superoxide damage to a eubacterial cell, comprising the step of vector-based expression of a YggX gene or a gene encoding a YggX homolog engineering the cell to produce more than the native amount of the YggX protein or its homolog, wherein the cells are rendered more resistant to superoxide damage and wherein there is no increased superoxide dismutase activity in the cells and wherein the YggX homolog comprises the amino acid sequence motif defined by SEQ ID NO:1.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the vector-based expression results in expression of the YggX protein is used.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein a the vector-based expression results in expression of the YggX protein homolog is used and wherein the homolog comprises the amino acid sequence motif defined by SEQ ID NO:1

~~MXRXXXCXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXPXXGXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXWXXWXXXQTXLXNE
XXLXXXXXXXXRXX, wherein X is any amino acid.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing the resistance of an eubacterial enzyme having an oxygen labile Fe-S cluster/center ~~an oxygen labile protein~~ to oxidative damage, comprising ~~the step of~~ co-expressing the enzyme ~~oxygen labile protein~~ with ~~the a~~ native YggX protein or a homolog of the YggX protein in a eubacterial ~~a host cell~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 additionally comprising the step of examining the oxygen-labile enzyme ~~protein~~ to determine the amount of oxidative damage.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Withdrawn) A method of screening compounds for antibiotic properties, comprising the step of examining a test compound's ability to affect YggX activity or the activity of a YggX homolog, wherein decreased YggX activity indicates that the compound is a likely candidate as an antibiotic.